

TALIN

NEWS MAGAZINE



"Get a Grip"



FEATURING:

Email Sytem Fixed P. 3

Scion Open P. 16

Spring Sports Preview P. 17

Special Valentines Day Insert



Avila University

Volume XVI Issue IV

In This Issue...

▼ “Full of Valentines”



We’re back for the spring semester and things are continuing to change—check out our feature about improvements made to the Marion Center and other spots on campus. Most of us have been here physically for the past month, but getting back into school mode has been challenging.

Organizations on campus have been busy (page 5) and changes to the email system help students and faculty communicate (page 3). Also get a sneak peak of the theatre department’s production of Marisol (page 4).

Spring means dance and cheer nationals, check out how the teams finished. And although you may not be able to tell by the weather, baseball and softball season are right around the corner.

Our insert features Valentine’s Day. Meet some of the eligible bachelors and bachelorettes at Avila, along with date spots right on campus. It also includes cheap gift ideas and ideas for singles on the day for couples.

If you don’t have someone special on February 14, let the Talon be there for you, all it has to offer is LOVE! Oh, and try not to eat ALL the chocolates...



** Be sure to participate in the games & puzzles throughout (pg. 23 & 24) the Talon and win a prize from our PRIZE CLOSET!! Prizes courtesy of The Talon, 98.9 The Rock and 96.5 The Buzz!!*



Editorial Policy

The Talon News Magazine is produced by the students of Avila University. Opinions expressed are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the TALON NEWS staff, the Trustees, administration, faculty, or staff of the University. The Talon News Magazine encourages letters to the editor. These may be submitted electronically or in writing and should include the writer’s name, address, and telephone numbers for verification purposes. Letters can be mailed to the TALON News Magazine Editor, Avila University, 11901 Wornall Road, Kansas City, MO. 64145. The Talon reserves the right to edit letters for reasons of space, clarity, or inappropriate language. Copies of the Talon News Network Operational Guidelines may be requested by writing to the above referenced address.

TALON

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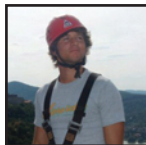
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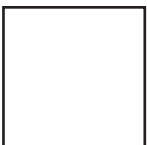
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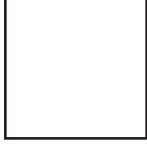
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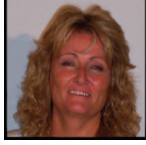
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Be You!



This Could
Be You!



This Could
Be You!



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We’re always looking to expand our Talon team. If you are interested in writing stories, taking pictures, or page layout, please feel free to contact me. Additionally, we also appreciate any feedback, good or bad.

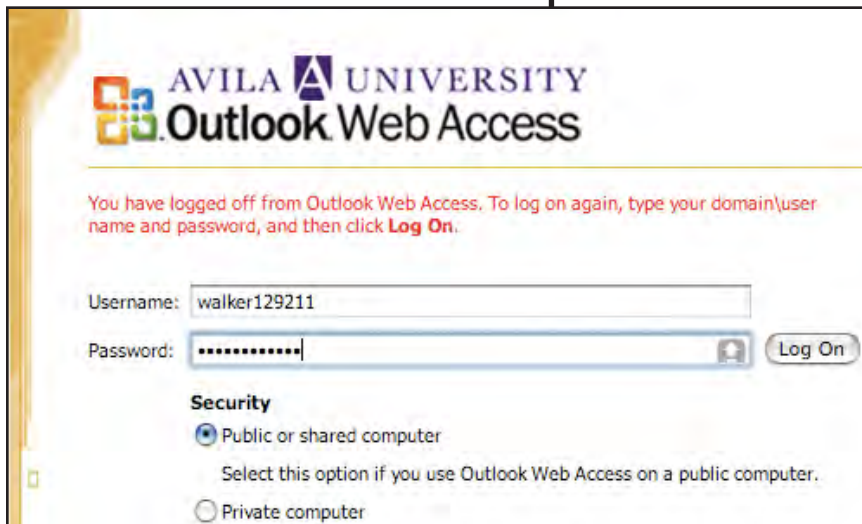
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Snowboard rail jam on fire at Snow Creek.
Jon Dunn
Adam Stinson
Alison Fieber

Charlotte Bishop

Mass Email System Solved



“The students have been really good about input”

Last semester, students began to get too many mass emails cluttering up their inboxes. Avila’s tech committee was made aware of the problem and produced a draft of a solution. The draft was taken to Executive

Committee and approved. The new policy is sure to help. E-mail monitors will be put into place. One person at a time can send out e-mails about activities, career services, and athletics. These

announcements can be sent to students no more than three times a week, creating less spam. Exceptions will be made for registrar, graduation reminders, and advising. Security will still be able to use e-mail to warn students in the event of a campus emergency.

Individual faculty can still e-mail students, but students cannot e-mail to more than 100 other students.

If, after all of this, there is too much e-mail to block, three times a week will turn to two.

“The students have been really good about input,” says Sue King, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs. “I encourage them to talk to Student Senate about input. Also, drop me an e-mail about any technical issues and I’ll make sure it’s recognized.”

King would also like to spread the word that if anyone wants to sit in on a tech committee, she is open.

Her e-mail address is: sue.king@avila.edu

Blood Drive Jacqueline Sharp

Avila University is hosting a blood drive Tuesday February 12, 2008. The event starts at

and bring photo id. The Community Blood Center originated forty years ago in Kansas City with a group of doctors and other



10 a.m. and goes until 1 p.m. and will be located in the Whitfield conference room. To participate in this event you must make an appointment by going to the Community Blood Center’s website www.esavealifenow.org and enter the promotion code for Avila. There are a few things the center advises you to do before coming to donate. That is drinking plenty of fluids, eat well,

medical professionals with a goal to save lives. All of the blood donated at drives similar to the one Avila will be holding, go to area hospitals to help patients in need of blood. If there are any questions or concerns you can get more information from the Avila website or you can contact Jason Baldwin in the Eagle’s Nest (lower level of the Marian Center) or call him at (816) 501- 3754

During the last week of the winter break, a group from Avila University’s Campus Ministry traveled over six hundred miles to Okolona, Mississippi to help an organization co-founded by a Sister of Saint Joseph—Carondelet (CSJ). The city of Okolona was chosen by the CSJ as an impoverished area that could once again flourish if it were only brought to the modern era both socially and economically. For example, segregation and racism are still major concerns in the city. “I’m still amazed after my second trip to Okolona how prevalent inequality is in some parts of the country,” said Jennifer Lee, a Second-year student.

The students helped organize The One of a Kind Shop, which helps fund the main effort to change this situation. This effort is the Excel after-school program, which the

Avila students visited daily after working in the shop. At this time, the Avila students would help the children with their school work. “The kids



there need that extra push to know people do care and want to help,” said Rachael Roth, third-year student. Several of the children remembered members of the group who traveled to Okolona last spring. “It was gratifying when the kids remembered our names,”

said Dave Armstrong, Director of Mission Effectiveness and Campus Ministries. “All students should get involved with service weeks like this because not

only are they rewarding, but they’re fun, too. This would be a great opportunity especially for education majors.” Similar sentiments were felt by other members of this group as well as those who accompanied Campus Ministry on the spring trip. “I really love the kids,” said Julia Fleck, second-year student, “if I could go back, I definitely would!”

“All students should get involved”

Ben Kopp

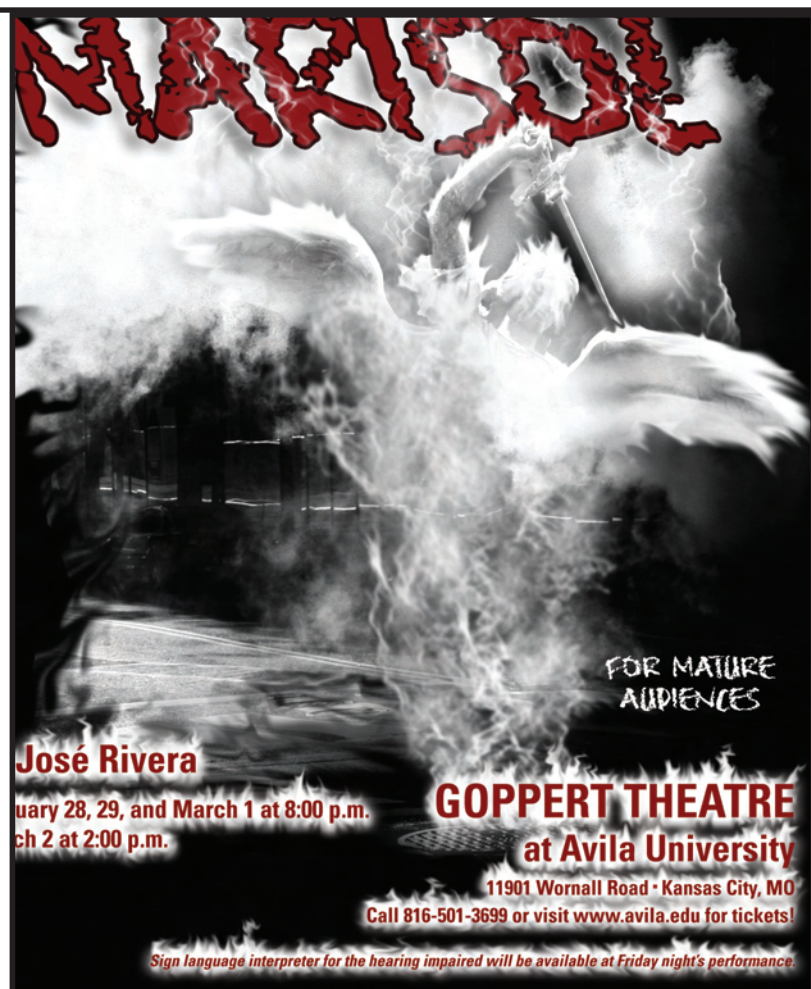
Work with Vacation in Oklahoma

Marisol Strikes and Twists Avila

BenKopp

With a stage and structure completely different from those of Black Comedy and The Grapes of Wrath, the Avila University Theatre Company is preparing to present Marisol by Jose Rivera. "It's fun and interesting with a wide range of emotions and challenges," said Noelia Rothery, the actress portraying Marisol, "It teaches you how to deal with different aspects of theatre in general. The shadow of the real world is portrayed and criticized, and it shows human nature fighting against all the world's toxic material. It questions my beliefs and challenges my mind because it's an absurdist play, not linear." Among the toxicity of the world's problems, the audience will see the hardships of the different paths people may take in life. Some paths involve losing everything, and others involve destroying everything. A range of cases will even show the different ways to lose one's mind. "I think that it takes a lot of commitment because while I'm saying these things, I have to believe them one hundred percent," said Andy Perkins, the actor portraying Lenny. "People who are watching me are going to think I'm crazy because of how much I

believe the things I'm saying." Maintaining respect for every type of personality that will be portrayed, the actors underwent weeks of research for not only their roles, but the roles of others as well. The researched aspects of the play included the homeless, the history of Nazism, abnormal psychology, and religion. "Thus far," said Whitney Wegman, Stage Manager, "my favorite part of this process has been having different professors come in and speak because it's making everyone in the cast more aware of the impact they're making through this show." The community is welcomed and encouraged to come see this impact when the show opens on February 28 at 8:00PM, and while the movements and lines will remain the same on other nights, the twisted set asks the audience to come again before or on the last performance, which will be at 2:00PM on March 2. Shows on February 29 and March 1 will be at 8:00PM. Students, faculty, and staff of Avila University have two free tickets.



Someone Needs Your "me time" More Than You

BrianBurger

How much do you have going on in your life? Do you have a couple of hours a week that you waste taking a nap or zoning out to the boob tube? Why not take this time and use it to help a child in need of a role model? The Big Brothers-Big Sisters of the Greater Kansas City area gives you a perfect opportunity to give back to the community, do something worth while with your time, and change someone's life. To

become a Big Brother or Big sister, you don't need any special skills or requirements, you simply need to be able to listen, provide encouragement, and become a friend to a young person growing up today. It will only take you a couple of hours a week, and the schedule is completely flexible to you. You won't have to turn your schedule upside down to meet with your little one, just include them in whatever you are already

doing. Take him/her to a movie or the park, go for a bike ride or kick around a soccer ball, anything you would do with your friends or family members. The Big Brothers Big Sisters agency will help you the entire way providing one-on-one help and supplying free tickets to local events. To get involved in the Big Brothers Big Sisters foundation you can log onto www.bigbrothersbigsisterskc.org to get more information. You will fill out a survey and then will be matched with the Little Brother or Little Sister that is the best fit to you. So, get off your butt and do something to not only help yourself but others as well. A Big Brother or Big Sister can open a world of possibilities and opportunities for a young person simply by being a genuine friend.



National Society of Leadership and Success

LaneGoodin

The National Society of Leadership and Success organization at Avila is one that can benefit not only your academic career but also your business career, no matter what that may be. At Avila, Jason Baldwin is the advisor for this group. The National Society of Leadership and Success' core philosophy is "One can achieve their desired life's work and goals with proper support and dedicated action." The requirements to be a part of the group are easy. You must attend three videoconferences, three consecutive Success Networking Team meetings, and participate in the three, hour interactive video-based Leadership Training Days. If you are interested in joining this group Contact Jason Baldwin. The next meeting for this semester is TBA. This is a great opportunity to learn how to be a great leader. We are the up and coming leaders of this country, so why not start now?



ACDP Catching Your Eye

ErinHopper

Have you ever taken the time to peek into the Dallavis production studio? Do you ever wonder who is behind that closed door creating the productions for Avila University? ACDP, Avila Concept and Design Production, would be the people you were looking for. ACDP has been around for eight years. It was started and is run by Professor Ben Meade from the Communications Department. This organization is a support organization that promotes design work, such as posters and flyers for school events. Also, ACDP is in charge of videotaping for such events. Ben Meade states, "This organization was started because we needed promotion material for on campus events." ACDP is currently sponsoring the production of "Invisible Children," and a Bluegrass event for the campus ministry picnic. "We pretty much archive special events that are important to the history of Avila

University," says Meade. ACDP is also producing a video for the 32nd annual Steer Dinner, the largest fundraiser of the year. This event takes place March 8 at 6:30pm in the Sheraton Hotel, at the Overland Park Convention Center. Such events are supported and created from the 23 member staff, lead by President Chadd Rivera. They meet in the Dallavis production studio at the first of each month hoping to create the new eye-catcher for Avila students.



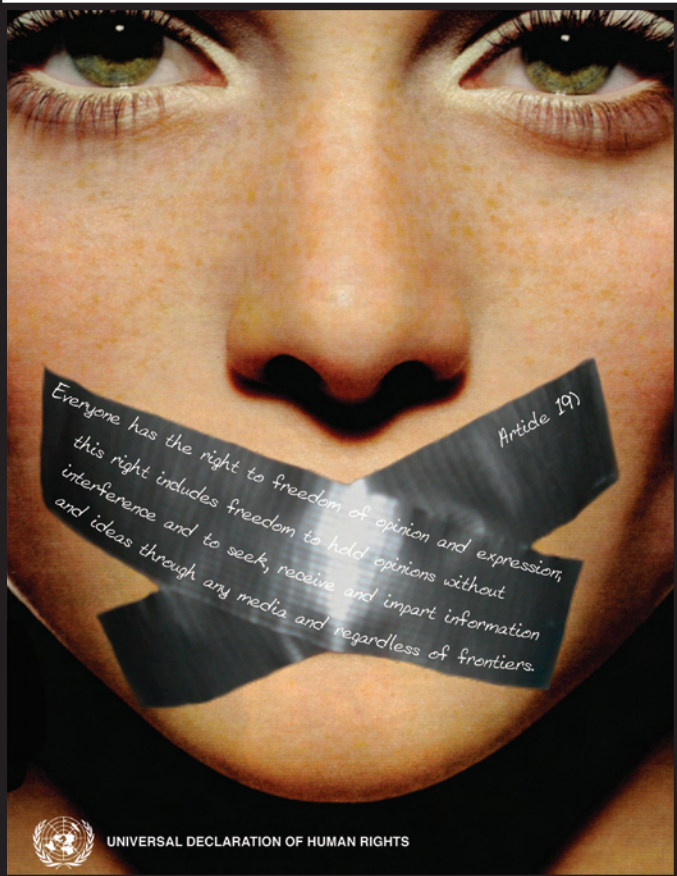
BenKopp Value Vent



Student Perspective Communication Aids Avila Values

It is impossible to not communicate, for the concept of communication has become an integral part of any relationship in any society. The relationship between Avila University and the students thereof is no exception. Every time a student makes blatant or subtle comments about the conditions of his or her environment, a statement to which the administration should pay attention is being made. This is not to say the university should maintain a constant surveillance, but it is to say the administration should be sure to ask students for feedback and let those students know the response. As a result, both parties can fully understand where they stand in the relationship. Pertaining to communication from the university, sudden changes made on campus with little, delayed, or no explanation

might convey ideas contrary to what the administration intended. Hypothetically, a simple tree removal on campus could be intended to prevent roots from damaging pipelines and electrical wires, yet students could see it as an unreasonable slaughtering if communication is not made. A general statement is really all that would be needed, or even a mention of who made the final decision could let reporters come to get releasable information. As a major issue in many places, privacy limitations will have to be established and respected by both parties, but this task does not need to be difficult. Moreover, the overall increase in the quality of communication between these two parts of the Avila community will allow Avila University to better uphold the worth and dignity of all human beings.



Milone Wins Creative Award

Gina Milone, a third year student at Avila, created a poster that was chosen as one of 10 examples of student Graphic Design work that will be published this spring in Creative Quarterly magazine, a magazine distributed nationally and in Canada. "It's really exciting one of my pieces is being published in a magazine," said Milone. "It will really help my portfolio."

Her design is one in a series of posters each illustrating an article of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The course is Graphics II, a sophomore-level graphic design course, taught by Susan Lawlor.



A Life Cut Short

Michelle Michalski

As many of you have heard, actor Heath Ledger died Tuesday, January 22, at the young age of 28. The news was shocking, unexpected, and very unfortunate for fans and family around the globe. He was found in his apartment in Manhattan, New York. His masseuse entered his room around 3p.m., for a scheduled appointment when she discovered him lying facedown, naked on his bed. Emergency personnel pronounced him dead at the scene around 3:30 p.m. His death is appearing to be caused by an overdose but has not been confirmed as of yet.

There were several different types of drugs found in the room, including the sleeping aid Ambien. A rolled up twenty dollar bill was found on the floor near the bed. New York Police Department spokesman, Paul Browne, declared after some testing that there were no illegal substances found on the bill. Police also reported that there were no illegal drugs found in the apartment.

Lee Daniels, who worked with Ledger in 2001 while producing *Monster's Ball*, stated that, "The definition of substance abuse is really up to one's perspective. I don't see him as a drug addict. I saw him



as someone who enjoyed life. I know drug addicts- he was not a drug addict." Heath Ledger began his road to stardom with his role in *10 Things I Hate About You*. He also starred in films such as,

Brokeback Mountain, *Candy*, *I'm Not There*, *A Knight's Tale*, *The Patriot*, and an upcoming role as the joker in the new Batman movie, *The Dark Knight*.

Like Ledger many other stars have tragically fallen to tragic, untimely, and accidental deaths. The most recent came in February of last year with the controversial death of star Anna Nicole Smith at age 39. Others include: Marilyn Monroe, 36, Elvis Presley, 42, Bradley Nowell, 28, Jimi Hendrix, 27, Janis Joplin, 27, Jim Morrison, 27, and Brad Renfro at age 25.

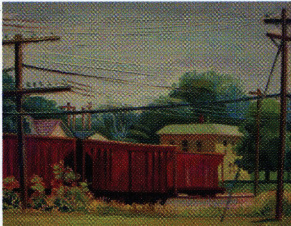
In the "Young and the Beautiful," in 1957, Elvis Presley stated, "You will be forever young and beautiful to me." This statement could not be any truer for these young stars that have met death at such a young age. It is important that we remember them for their good qualities and now their talents have blessed the world, especially because their time was cut so short.

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Two Houses, Ladder



Railroad Cars South of Town



House on a Slope



Sketch, Houses in Marceline

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Avila Views Marceline

Javier Kelty

Marceline, Missouri, is generally known for one thing: being the hometown of Walt Disney. But in more recent years, another artist has stemmed out of this small town of a little more than 2500 people. Her name is Nora Othic, "She's a professional artist. That's what she does for a living," says Avila art instructor, Marci Aylward. Othic was able to attract 178 people to the opening of her art exhibit, in the Whitfield Centre, titled "One Hundred Views of Marceline."

Othic has been painting with oils and pastels for the majority of her life. She has managed to live off of her artwork with the help of a BFA in art. She stays in her hometown to do most of her work. She sketches scenes in Marceline, which is a style known as plain air, where you paint on location. "She's what I would call a regionalist painter. She paints what she sees in her everyday life, like Thomas Hart Benton," said Aylward.

Her fan base in Marceline has gotten so strong that many of them came to her opening night in the

Whitfield Centre. Among the 178 people that appeared were fans from Marceline, Kansas City art collectors, local artists and the Avila community.

The gallery has been very successful, opening the door for thirty-six painting purchases. Seven or eight collectors and four artists bought pieces, which shows how respected Othic's work is. Even the president of the school, Ron Slepitzka, bought two paintings. "I usually don't buy art but I gave in and bought one," Aylward happily admits.

"One Hundred Views of Marceline" started showing on the 18, of January and will continue to show until the 15 of February. If you don't get a chance to see Othic's paintings, there will be many more opportunities this semester, to view art in Whitfield by high school students, a pattern-design artist, a photographer, and the seniors of Avila.

New District Lights Up Our City

MichelleMichalski

There has been a lot of recent construction going on downtown and a growing curiosity to what all of this construction entails. Some of you may know that part of downtown has more recently been identified as the new Power and Light District. With the first installment of the new 17-floor H&R block building back in 2006, this area is continually growing at a rapid pace. Of all the new attractions, the new 18,954 seat Sprint Center right in the heart of it all is causing the greatest excitement. Finished in 2007 it has already attracted many basketball tournaments, and concerts; including all nine of Garth Brook's shows, and the upcoming Big Twelve Tournament in March. Leading development of retail and entertainment projects, The Cordish Company in partnership with the State of Missouri is responsible for this new exhilarant



downtown district. When finished, it will be nine-square blocks bound by Grand Boulevard, Truman Road, Baltimore, and 12th street. The final cost will be \$850 million dollars, the largest new development project in the Midwest. It will be a vital link between the hotels, businesses, the Convention Center, and attractions. Also included will be 1,000-1,500 residential units. Now for the fun part, coming attractions include: Lucky Strike Lanes, The Bristol Seafood Grill, Famous Dave's Barbeque, Chipotle, the world- renowned Gordon Biersch Brewery and Restaurant, and ultra



groove lounge Mosaic. The theatres downtown will also undergo restoration. Midland Theatre will soon become an exciting live performance theatre, restaurant and bar. The vacant Empire Theatre will become Main Street Theatre and reopen as a six-screen boutique movie theatre complex. The Grand opening is scheduled for this coming spring. If you are not wanting to wait that long. Though the district already has two new appealing attractions, Vinino's wine bar and McFadden's. These two establishments are located right next to each other on Grand Street; they have daily drink specials and fun events! Soon Kansas City will no longer be the city no one remembers or has no idea as to why they come here. We will be known as a fun vibrant city with a lot to do and enjoyable places to go. Be looking forward to all of the new coming attractions and a reenergized city that's not only fun to work and live in but to play as well!

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Cameras in tunnels and construction in Marion Center

Renovations and Remodeling at Avila

SkylarMcKeen

As with the beginning of every new semester, the clean feeling of a fresh start can be felt around Avila University. However, this semester it applies not only to the students, but to the campus itself. The work being done on the Marion Centre is the start to a bold new plan of renovations ranging from much needed technical renovations to aesthetically pleasing decorations.

New air ducts will be put into place, not just to increase air circulation, but also to help with the uneven pressure that was a result of the old duct. On top of that, new wiring is being laid in as well as fresh carpet put down. More aesthetically speaking, ceiling decorations and a new entertainment area with a flat screen television will hopefully draw a crowd into the centre.

The hope is that the Marion Centre will go from a room people walk through to a place people want to be. Although the project is scheduled to be done in late March or early April, delays could keep the project rolling until May. This is due to the potential conversion of the Hodes building into a learning center complete with offices. Although this plan is still under review, this would potentially result in the closing of the Avila Montessori School.

Coinciding with these changes are the ones being made down in the tunnels. A new camera system is being put in place for security reasons in the tunnels, underneath the school. Cameras are also being placed in the parking lots to prevent thief.

These are only a few of the changes being made around campus this spring. Classrooms around campus are reaping the benefits of early spring maintenance as well. Room 423 in Borsereene hall is expected to be receiving a ceiling projector, new computer, DVD and VCR player along with a fresh set of speakers. Plasma televisions, new computers plus a DVD and VCR system are planned to be put in the O'Reilly hall in room 206 along with Whitfield in 507.

The final big change, which is still under review, is the conversion of the rooms in Ridgeway Hall into the style of room seen in the Carondolet Hall. Instead of a middle barrier separating the room into two living areas, Ridgeway would receive carpeting and the more open arrangement of the Carondolet rooms.



TALON



"Get a Grip"



Be My Valentine

Most Eligible on Avila's Campus

Bachelorettes

Full Name: Danielle Marie Higgs
Nickname: Dee
Major/ Graduation year: Nursing 2010
Hobbies: playing soccer for Avila, running, hanging out with my friends and family! Going to the beach! Shopping with my mom and eating!
Best Pick up line: Ow! My ankle! Will you carry me?
Qualities that you look for in a guy: A great personality, the one that walks in when the rest of the world is walking out on me, great smile, loves to watch college football, willing to watch any sporting events, very outgoing, smart, successful, is behind me 100 percent, and has a plan for the rest of his life!
Corny quote about your ideal date: April 25, not to hot, not to cold! All you need is a light jacket!



Full Name: Brittany Lofgreen
Nickname: Flip
Major/ Graduation year: Sports Science May 2008
Hobbies: Volleyball, working out, Shopping, trying new stuff.
Best Pick up line: You know our kids would be amazing athletes!
Qualities you look for in a guy: I'm a fan of athletes, so a person that is active and in shape. They need to know how to have fun and joke around and be able to make me laugh.
Corny quote bout ideal date: Cuddling by the fireplace, enjoying some s'mores.



Full Name: Jacqueline Sharp
Nickname: Jacq, Jack Attack, or J-Money!!
Major/ Graduation year: Public Relations 2010
Hobbies: Working out, hanging out with friends
Best Pick up line: So, how much does a polar bear weigh? ...Enough to break the ice! Hi! I'm Jacqueline. What's your name?
Qualities that you look for in a guy: I would like someone who is tall, dark, and handsome, sweet but not to cheesy, has a great personality and will make me laugh!
Corny quote about your ideal date: " My girlfriends are my soulmates and guys are just the ones we have fun with!"



Full Name: Joseph Lalli
Nickname: L@LLI
Major/ Graduation year: Visual Communication 2009
Hobbies: naps, soccer, painting, design, networking, smiling
Best Pick up line: Hi :)
Qualities you look for in a girl: Faithfulness
Corny quote about ideal date: Being together-- "If you wait for the right woman, then the date will never end."

Full Name: Billy Finn
Nickname: Williwam H. Bonnie/ Bobby finn
Major/ Graduation year: General Management/ 2008
Hobbies: Playing football, watching movies, drawing, weight lifting, music.
Best Pick up line: 1."Do you believe in love at first sight, or do I need to walk around the room again?" 2."Can I flirt with you?"
Qualities that you look for in a girl: Loyal, trustworthy, spiritual, kind, caring, sense of humor, outgoing, athletic.
Corny quote about your ideal date: A candle lit dinner, with a nice bottle of wine. In the background there's slow R&B playing to set the mood. I will take care of the rest.....



Full Name: Buddy Blackman
Nickname: Dirk Diggler
Major/ Graduation year: Film and Digital Media May 2009
Hobbies: Pumping iron, being legit, making movies, and being Buddy.
Best Pick up line: Do you sleep on your stomach? No, can I?
Qualities you look for in a girl: Real boring, no personality, really ugly. ñ Smarts, Nice smile, funny, digs the Buddy.
Corny quote about ideal date: Spontaneous and fun. Everything you need, shorty.

10 Most Romantic Movies

MichelleMichalski

1. **Romeo & Juliet:** 1968, Leonard Whiting and Olivia Hussey
2. **An Officer and a Gentlemen:** 1982, Richard Gere and Debra Winger
3. **Casablanca:** 1942, Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman
4. **Sleepless in Seattle:** 1993, Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan
5. **Ghost:** 1990, Patrick Swayze and Demi Moore
6. **Pretty Woman:** 1990, Richard Gere and Julia Roberts
7. **Titanic:** 1997, Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet
8. **When Harry Met Sally:** 1989, Billy Crystal and Meg Ryan
9. **The Notebook:** 2004, Ryan Gosling and Rachel McAdams
10. **City of Angels:** 1998, Nicolas Cage and Meg Ryan

Viture is Nothing, but Well Directed Love

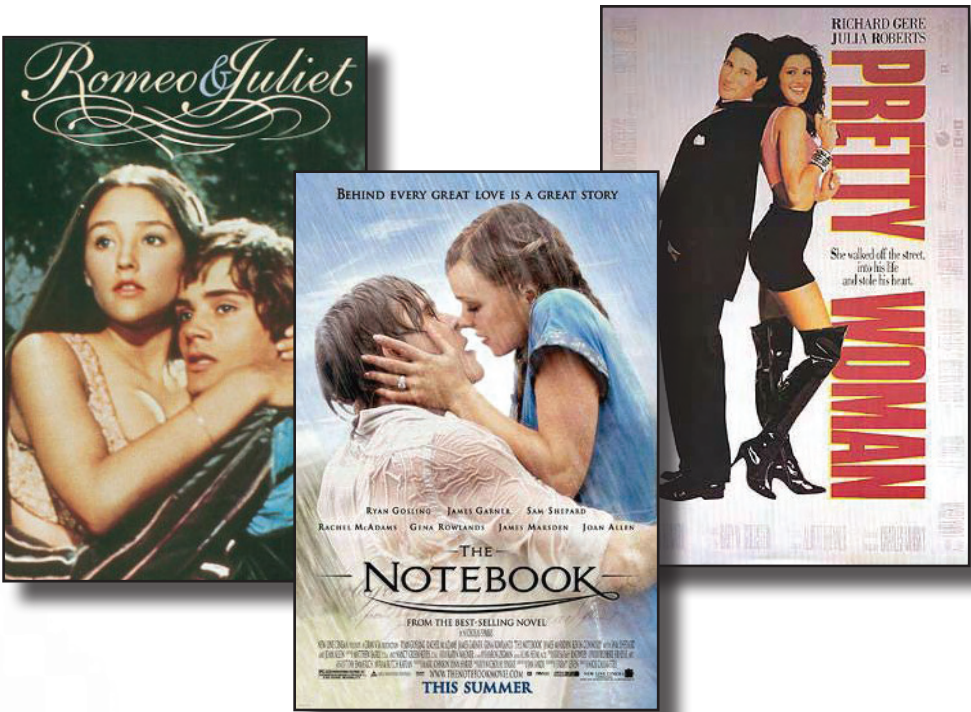
DavidWilson

It is a beautiful occasion when life's focus on love if only for one day. Traditionally, Valentine's Day is a time for lovers, and it is surprising that a holiday invented by commercialization would alienate such a major demographic as the single. I enjoy the term single because it is exceptionally mysterious, whereas, "oh he's with her," is all too explanatory. However, the main point is that


this holiday is not just for those in relationships, but as people get older that is the only angle they see. It does not have to be romantic love at all. In fact the first Valentine gift you ever received was probably from either your mother or father. Saint Augustine of Hippo is accredited with the quote, "virtue is nothing, but well directed love." I suggest that all of Avila direct his or her love at

someone, especially on Valentines Day. Whether it is your mother, grandmother, grandfather, sibling, or the like, it never feels bad to share love with those we care about. Another route to take would be to sit at home with a Costco-sized bucket of ice cream and a six-pack pining over past loves wondering what went wrong, but in the long run calling a relative and wishing them a Happy Valentine's Day will

definitely have a better resolve. As for those in relationships, be polite to those of your friends who aren't as fortunate to have found their soul mate of the month, because as Saint John Mary Vianney says, "when the stomach is full, it is easy to talk of fasting."



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Word on the Street

Best and Worst Valentine's Day



"I received my first Mozart CD from my mom when I was eight."
--Patrick Turk



"I woke up one morning to see in the kitchen that there were these three hand blown glass vases. Each was filled with brilliantly colored roses." -- Christie Jinks



"All I have to say is, burnt cookies."
--Jim Wagner



"My boyfriend took me to Red Lobster. He didn't make reservations so we ended up having to wait forever. But before all of this, I told him that all I wanted for Valentines day was chocolate--guess he didn't get the memo."
-- Alison Fieber



"I got a teddy bear from a gas station." -- Lindsey White



"At school in 3rd grade I got three whole candy grams. Ya I was kind of a big deal." -- Dani Asher



"In my sophomore year of high school I got this "goose" stuff and Spongebob Squarepants shoe laces." -- Courtney Ryan



"I got dumped on Valentine's Day."
--Steven Sharkey

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A Lovely Night Together: Top 10 Romantic Spots of Avila

BenKopp

Rest assured that Valentine's Day plans do not have to involve high costs and crowded restaurants. Working from the tenth-most romantic location to the top, these are some of the most romantic spots on the Avila University campus.

10

The New Parking Lot East of Goppert Theatre – This spacious and secluded area provides a well-lit area that can be decorated to perfection with just a little effort.

9

The Soccer Field – Have a larger and much grassier version of the parking lot, but remember to bring your own lighting for what could be a magical evening.

8

The McCullough Family Courtyard – Electricity and a cobblestone floor are provided at this location! While using the fire pit to cook is not accessible to individual members of the Avila community, a little effort can turn the area into a well-decorated dinner for two with the possibility of dance music. Be aware, however, the courtyard carries an echo.

7

The Fountain – Electricity is provided in the center, and any improvements one can make to the wondrous landscaping will compliment the scenery greatly.

6

The Benches by the O'Reilly Dock – Quiet and secluded, the pair of benches sits beneath a pair of trees in a well-lit area. The view includes the football field and a pleasantly-lit neighborhood.

5

Under the Southwest Balcony of O'Reilly – This room-that-never-was allows one's romantic imagination to go wild as it sports stairs, a sidewalk, seating of its own, and a ceiling in a pretty isolated part of campus.

4

The Marian Centre Moat – This double-sectioned area provides great potential not only at the bottom of its staircase, but also along the rails above. Tables and seating are provided, but remember to buy at least seventy feet of extension cord to power your evening.

3

The Marion Centre Balcony – For those who prefer rooftop sophistication and romance, this romantically isolated piece of campus overlooks hundreds of trees and lights with the waxing moon and thousands of visible stars in the night sky. The potential here is nearly endless, but not as spectacular as the potential in the second-most romantic location of Avila University.

2

The Current Front Entrance of Blasco Hall – Light and decorate the area in any number of fashions, and add any number or arrangement of flowers to the bushes and fruit to the trees. Have a candlelit dinner between the concrete benches, wire the area for music, and dance under the stars. This area can even be decorated far better than many other places on campus simply because it has specially-located structures that can help make the planning and the evening magical.

1

So what is more romantic than all of these places? The issue is pressing; however, worry ensues over what would happen to this part of campus if it were simply announced. The magic would surely be harmed, so search for yourselves to find this place and take the promise that you will eventually find satisfaction. Who knows...this guy may even reserve it for his Valentine's Day.

HAPPY V-DAY



Everybody can use a little love.

chad

Valentine's Day for the College Student

Charlotte Bishop

It's on it's way, boys and girls: Valentine's Day. What are we supposed to do? We're college students; extra cash doesn't easily come to hand at this point in our lives. So what do you do for that particular person in your life? Here's a few ideas to keep the holiday without demolishing your bank account.

Movie Marathon:

Cuddle up on the couch with your favorite movies all night long. Each of you can bring your own DVDs so it doesn't cost anything. Just don't forget to do your homework first.



Candlelight Dinner:

This one is self-explanatory. Make dinner and set it out by candlelight. Maybe play a little light music in the background. This is romantic, thoughtful, and easy, as well as cheap.



Walk in the Park: It's cold outside, but a nice walk would give you some time alone together, no interruptions. And when you get back, a warm cup of cocoa would make it perfect.



Dancing: Who says you have to go anywhere? Just put on the stereo in your room and dance the night away.

Have some cash ready? Here are some ideas for you.

Brunch: Cheaper than dinner but no less fun and sweet, brunch is a good way to show him or her that you care on the special day. There are quite a few places around KC that offer brunch, like TGI Friday's and First Watch.

Farmer's Market: I know, I know, sounds dumb and boring. But you never know what you'll find in these little shops, so if you have a little time and a little cash, take your date to check it out. Who knows – you might find the perfect gift there as well as have some fun.

College Activities: Not just Avila, but the other colleges in the area have things going on. Musicals, plays, art exhibits. It's cheaper than a play by a professional theatre troupe, and maybe just as good.

There you have it. **Valentine's Day** doesn't have to destroy your bank account. Whether you want it to be romantic or just plain fun, money doesn't have to be an issue. Just be creative and sweet, and your Valentine's will be perfect.

Valentines Day: Singles Style

Janos Serfozo

For all you singles out there, you don't have to stay at home and hang out with Grandma or Grandpa for Valentine's day. No offense, Grandma, but going out on the town and hanging out with other hot singles sounds a lot better than smelling cigarette smoke and eating mints.

There are a couple of things you can do on Valentines Day. Mix 93.3 is holding their annual anti-Valentine's Day party. The event is called the Bitter Ball 2 and is going to be February 13 at America's Pub in Westport. Go and celebrate being single with friends and find a Valentine while there.

Blonde is also having their anti-Valentine's Day party. Drink specials are available so go ahead and buy a drink for that sexy single down the bar. Thursday night is also a good night for Brookside. Brookside has one dollar draws and one dollar wells. So your bank account won't feel any pain.

One can always invite some friends over, serve some snacks, drinks and have a game night. Who knows your friend might bring a friend and Boom! You have a Valentine. So enjoy Valentine's Day singles and be safe.

STUDENT SCHOOLDAY



Let's be honest, Avila students produce some of the best work out there. Whether it's papers or projects, we do it all, and we do it well. On Thursday *April 10, 2008* students from the undergraduate and graduate programs are going to be presenting their work. All campus community members are invited to attend. You've seen their work, you've seen their names... it's time to put a face with it.

Presentations start in the morning in Whitfield and the poster sessions start in the Library at noon.

PUT A FACE WITH A NAME

Be My Valetine?

DaniAsher

We all know the history of Valentine's Day and how it commemorates Saint Valentine. Remember how simple the day used to be before worrying about whether you were in a relationship or how much money to spend? In elementary school, we were so excited to pass out a Valentine card to everybody and have a classroom party with junk food and candy. As we got older, things became less simple and more selective and competitive. Then candy grams and

other goodies came into play. Those unfortunate kids who didn't receive a treat were publicly humiliated in front of their classmates. Later it was the bouquet of flowers that arrived in the office and announced to the recipient over the intercom system. You were just hoping that you had a secret admirer or your Mom had decided to send you something.

I have a couple of issues with Valentine's Day. First, the holiday is traditionally commercial but you don't always have to spend a bunch of money to make the

day special. A well-thought out plan, such as cooking a favorite meal, can be just as special. Another issue is instead of designating one day of the year to show your significant other how you feel, you could do this on other days also. Going out of your way on a random day for no particular reason means more than buying chocolates on Valentine's Day because you feel obligated. Thirdly, Valentine's Day should not be a day just for women. I have heard lots of guys say they have never had anything done for

them on Valentine's Day. Does that mean that guys are not loved too? The effort should be mutual and not just one-sided.

So for all you lovebirds and proud singles, Happy Valentine's Day! Remember, the thought is what counts and show that special someone how much you love them on other days besides February 14.



Pre-Marriage Intmacy

JoshuaLoden

Student Perspective

If one were to walk down the average mall hallway, one would see countless couples holding hands, wrapped around each other, and even the occasional kissing duo. If America has become so accepting of such sexual display of desires, why should Christians bother in abstaining from such behavior, especially when the couple is in a serious relationship? If the world doesn't have a problem with it, why should Christians? The answer is simple, Christians are not to be of this world but they are to "be transformed by the renewing of the mind" (Romans 12:2).

While many will disagree, I think that Bible outlines acceptable pre-marriage sexual behavior. "But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people." (Ephesians 5:3) "Even a hint..." those three words tell us exactly what God sees as inappropriate behavior before marriage. Thus if a couple were making out and sexual desires surfaced, the two individuals have hinted at sexual immorality in God's eyes because Christ said, "I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart." (Matthew 5:28)

The next question that needs to be asked is: what counts as sexual immorality. Since the Bible doesn't offer

a list, opinions are scattered all over the spectrum. The position that I have taken says that even the slightest form of sexual intimacy which would lead to greater desires should be avoided. To understand what I mean, we must first understand the impact that one of the lowest levels of intimacy, kissing, has on the individual.

Kissing has proven physiological effects: increase in the individual's pulse rate, increase in blood pressure, increase size of the pupils, and an increase in deep breathing. Kissing also stimulates the pleasure centers in the brain as the brain reacts to the effects of excitement or surprise that a good kiss brings. In other words, kissing is a catalyst. If kissing is a catalyst, then it has to be preparing the individual for events yet to come, or in other words: foreplay. Foreplay is sexual stimulation in preparation for sexual intercourse.

The next question is whether foreplay is acceptable. To answer this we need look no further than Philippians 4:8. "Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things." Does foreplay meet if one of these requirements in God's sight? According to Matthew 5:28 the answer is no, if it outside the context of marriage. Foreplay is more than a hint of sexual immorality and thus it is inappropriate between

to individuals before marriage. Thus if foreplay is prohibited, then so is anything that can be classified as foreplay, even if sexual intercourse never occurs. Since kissing hints at sexual immorality, it not appropriate for unmarried individuals.

I think the overall point is that all sexually arousing activities should be reserved for marriage according to the scriptures. Unmarried couple should avoid any activity that tempts them toward sex, that gives the appearance of immorality, or that could be considered foreplay. "Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love

and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart." (2 Timothy 2:22) In my mind, this means anything that goes beyond holding hands and friendly hugs. Overall, the more a married couple has to share exclusively between themselves, the more special and unique the sexual relationship in the marriage becomes.

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Black History Month

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12

Avila's Blood Drive

Whitfield Conference Room
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

FEBRUARY
13

Practice Interviewing with Confidence

12:30 p.m. Dallavis Room 800

FEBRUARY
14

VALENTINES DAY! :)

Guys make your ladies happy!
Make sure they are getting what
they deserve! Don't take her to Red Lobster!

FEBRUARY
17

VIEW AVILA UNIVERSITY

the 17th - 18th
Prospective hih school students
stay over night on campus!

FEBRUARY
18

The Truman Show

Library After Hours
Film Series 7 p.m.

FEBRUARY
20

Practice Interviewing with Confidence

4:00 p.m. Hodes Room 704

FEBRUARY
22

The Lives of Others

Library After Hours
Film Series 7 p.m.

FEBRUARY
28

Marisol

the 28th and 29th
Goppert Theater
8 p.m.

SpencerDavis

Avila Glitter Girls Continue Success in Florida

It was that time of the year again for the Glitter Girls and Coach Cindy Freeman to hop on a plane to Florida for their annual Collegiate National Championships in Orlando. This was easier said than done, however. The girls, along with the cheerleaders, left Avila at three in the morning in order to make their flight to the Sunshine State. But due to the weather their flight was cancelled and they ended up being on four separate flights with different pit-stops to random cities (Chicago, Houston, New Jersey, and Maryland) in order to get the whole team into the Tampa airport. They then had to drive all the way to the competition in Orlando. So instead of having a little bit of fun and sight seeing, the Glitter Girls knew it changed strictly to a business trip. "Even though there were complications with the flights, we knew



we couldn't do anything about them and we were just excited to get there safely and ready to practice so we could give it our best!" said sophomore Kendra Rose. After practicing twice Friday, the girls got to have a little fun and spend some time at the Magic Kingdom. Saturday was the semi-finals for both of their routines, Jazz and Hip-Hop. In both categories the girls did so well that they were asked to come back Sunday for finals! At finals the girls did amazing and ending up placing 6th for their Jazz routine and 7th in Hip-hop. Elizabeth Roberts added, "What was most exciting for us, was the feeling that we had each time we came off the floor. We all felt like we had danced to the best of our ability and left all of our emotion and energy on the floor. Our dances looked amazing and the audience felt our emotion and our excitement. We couldn't have asked for more."



and Chicago; others went to Houston and Washington D.C. All of the girls eventually made it to Florida.

Like their flight, the competition did not go as well as planned either. The team finished tenth in this year's national competition, much lower than the top five finish they had hoped for. You can say that the flight had a little to do with

this, but before leaving Kansas City the team did suffer some last minute injuries, an appropriate way to head into competition considering the nicks and bruises they had been fighting all season.

Even with a list of possible excuses the team could use for their tenth place finish, they're not making any. "We were over excited and over confident which may have lead to a lack of focus," said Ashlee Steele, sophomore cheerleader. Nonetheless, the team isn't blaming the flight or injuries. Despite the unfortunate outcome, there are always lessons to be learned. I am positive that this years' competition will be used as a stepping stone for next years' team.

In what seems to be typical Avila cheerleading fashion turmoil surrounded the team once again. This time, however, it was not by choice. Last year the Avila cheerleading team decided not to compete in the National Competition, but this year they went and their journey wasn't nearly what they expected.

The trip started out as planned, anxiously they arrived at the Kansas City International airport in order to fly to Florida, and little did they know plans changed. Instead of flying as a team directly to Florida, the cheerleaders were separated into small groups and sent to cities around the country due to the bad weather. Some girls went New York

Rough Flight for Eagles

ChaddRivera

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Lady Eagles with attitude

JanosSerfozo

Five seniors, five juniors, three sophomores and five freshmen make up the well-balanced Eagles softball team. The ladies will take the home field on February 23, 2008 and have at it with Mt. Mercy College. The first pitch will be thrown at 1:00 pm and end when the Eagles say it's over. "We are a young team but we are all good players," said Kristi Bredehoeft, senior. With a mix of veteran and rookie players, the Lady Eagles are very confident and no doubt will win many games. However, with new players comes the problem with the team meshing together and playing as one. To the contrary, "We have great chemistry and we all get along really well," Christina Tracey said. The new players joining the team and meshing seems to have been

taken care of well before the season started. Returning senior Ashley Talley will be a key offensive player with a team leading

RBI's and team leading 4 home runs. Christina "X-Tina" Tracey and Mallory Birnbaum will also be valuable offensive players both with exceptional numbers.

Anchoring the pitching staff will be Senior Lacey Porter with an ERA of .162, 6 wins and 5 losses. Mallory Birnbaum also with game experience played in 17 games with an ERA of 2.73, 6 wins and 4 losses. New to the pitching staff is Liz Larson. The Iowa native had an outstanding career at Dowling High School and will be a true asset to the team.

The softball team gets along very well. They are hard working and are ready to dominate. "We are awesome," Liz Larson was quick to add. It is that type of attitude and confidence along with talent, that our ladies have that will put them at the top of the ranks.



batting average of .356, team leading runs scored with 23, second in the team with 37 hits and 21 RBI's. Following close behind is senior Terra Nichols with a total batting average of .319, 21 runs scored, 30 hits, 26

Baseball Baby!

EmilyHoskins

The lush green grass, the coarse sinister earth concealed as a diamond and a vicious pack of Eagles looking to tear it up. Yes, Avila's baseball team has returned for their 20th season in Avila history. With countless talented new recruits and skilled veterans to lead the way, this baseball team is ready to fight. Last season the Eagles ended up 38-15 and only one game out of the World Series! To be so close to victory last year has only sparked determination for this season. "Regional championship, it's that or bust," head Coach Ryan Howard says of the team's goal this year. After coaching the Eagles for seven years now, Coach Howard is looking forward to getting his 200th win. And not only has Coach Howard had success here at Avila, but there has been an amazing 14, 30 win seasons in the 20 years of the program. So this year the eagles are changing it up a bit and doing what it takes to win that Regional championship. In the pre-season rankings Avila baseball is ranked #23 in the nation. According to Coach Howard, this season the team will be more defensive and pitching oriented. Now, here are some outstanding

players to watch out for this year. Junior pitcher Nathan Albert, a transfer from Bakersfield, CA



who was drafted by the Yankees and didn't sign, is known to be able to throw in the mid 90's.

Junior Jeff Woods, a transfer from Grossmont College will take over the short stop position for the Eagles this year. Senior Jeremy Arbiso, 1st Team All Conference and All - Region was injured last year but is geared up to defend second base for Avila. As for Avila's big rivals this season, Coach Howard uttered "Jewel," with no hesitation. So if you make it out this season to one game and one game only, shoot for the home game against the William Jewel Cardinals on March 19th, where there are sure to be some fireworks. One can feel the aroma of energy and enthusiasm that the players leave wherever they go. Senior outfielder Neftali Lizzaraga is excited "about having a lot more live arms this year, because pitching gets more and more crucial down the stretch." Well, the season has arrived and our team is ready. Coach Howard puts it clear and bluntly. "We are not here to win games, we are here to win championships." So, students and faculty there you have it. Come out to support the Eagles on February 20th as they face Ottawa University and be a part of an incredible program.

The Scion Open 2008

TerranceCashel

The wind was calm and the sun was at full mass as we pushed our snowboards up to the huge white Scion tent staked in at the base of the summit. Cool enough for a long sleeve shirt, but warm enough to break a sweat if you were still wearing your winter coat. Most youngsters were riding in free Scion t-shirts and a pair of gloves. The snow was just barely showing signs of slush, but since it snowed a few nights before the conditions were great for riding. It was ideal conditions for the second annual Scion Open, slope style and rail jam.

The Scion Open started last year as kind of an experiment just to see what the turnout would be. It was a huge success and I'm sure it will be back for years to come. It took place just North of KC at Snow Creek, a little hill with some ski lifts in small town Weston, Missouri. The scene was basically Kansas City's version of the winter X-games. All the local extreme sports stores had their tents and booths set up showing off all

their new gear for the season. Including Just Ride Sports of Blue Springs that put on a wakeboard rail jam, and if it wasn't enough putting the boarders in ice-cold water surrounded by snow they also set the rail on fire that made for an amazing spectacle of entertainment for all ages.



Plus there was free food for all riders who signed up for the competition, and those lucky enough to gain access to a VIP pass. The competition was separated into 14 and under intermediate, and advanced, then 15 and over intermediate and advanced. It was a stiff competition

and the pressure was on as the crowds moved up the mountain to watch from a better vantage point. The pressure proved to be too much for some riders,



last year it ended up lasting much longer than expected. The riders pushed each other further and higher each run they took making for an amazing show and possibly some top ten nominees for ESPN. If you showed up you were at least guaranteed a free t-shirt and a variety of stickers. The competition was close, but if you laid down enough solid runs you might have walked away with a new snowboard jacket, an X-box 360 or even a new snowboard. Those were the main prizes awarded, along with a Scion car on a plaque if you made a podium spot.

The Scion Open was a great show and an even better experience, and if you didn't make it out this year hopefully you can find time in your busy schedule next year because it will be back, bigger and badder than before.

"An amazing spectacle of entertainment for all ages."

The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) has announced the recipients of the 2007 NAIA Scholar Athlete Awards.

Avila University had 10 fall athletes who were named to this list. The recipients from Avila are:

Brian Berger - Men's Soccer
Lisa Burks - Women's Soccer
Patrick Devero - Men's Soccer
Brandon Holiwell - Football
Brian Kelly - Football
Josh Loden - Men's Soccer
Lauren Miller - Volleyball
Jill Sells - Women's Soccer
Patrick Turk - Men's Soccer
Doug Wendel - Football



In order to be a recipient of the NAIA Daktronics Scholar-Athlete award one must fulfill these requirements: the recipient must be a junior above in academic standing; have been in attendance at the nominating institution a minimum of one full year of attendance; has a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 3.50 (on a 4.0 scale) at the time of nomination at the nominating institution; has been certified as eligible.

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Brent Brazell
Advantage student,
Organizational Development

He Said/She Said

Two students argue the issue of Euthanasia

She Said

Emilie Brumit

He Said Joshua Loden

Euthanasia is basically the socially acceptable word for doctor-assisted suicide and is just as morally wrong as abortion, the death penalty, and any other form of purposely taking one's or another's life. (This doesn't include life lost in a Just War.) First, euthanasia is morally unacceptable because the pain that it allows patients to escape can nowadays be managed by a wide range of drugs. Thus if the pain can be managed without taking the person's life, then there is not an acceptable reason to take the said life. Second, the Hippocratic Oath, which all doctors take and ought to follow, states, "I will neither give a deadly drug to anybody if asked for it, nor will I make a suggestion to this effect." This oath has been the backbone of medicine for the past 200 years and without, a whole range of immoral activities becomes acceptable. Without the oath, no line is drawn. Third, accepting euthanasia would replace the "equality of human life" ethic with a utilitarian "death culture" that views the intentional ending of certain human lives as an appropriate and necessary answer to life's most difficult challenges. We already have a nation full of depression and drunks; we do not need to give these people the legal means to end their lives, no matter how socially expendable these people might



seem, as there is no price-tag for one life. Finally, as states by the New York State Task Force on Life and the Law, "We believe that the practices would be profoundly dangerous for large segments of the population. The risks would extend to all individuals who are ill. They would be most severe for those whose autonomy and well-being is already compromised by poverty, lack of access to good medical care, or membership in a stigmatized social group." Thus what we are doing is again giving people who see no other option an easy way out without thought for those they leave behind. Overall, I think these four points provide an effective argument to not only why euthanasia should be banned, but also why everyone who cares about life should strive to prevent any law that would allow the immorally taking of a life.

Many people think of physician-assisted suicide as euthanasia; it's not. Physician-assisted suicide refers to a doctor simply providing the means for death, often through a prescription. The patient is the one who will administer the lethal drug or treatment, not the doctor. The decision is made by the patient, and followed through by the patient.

The past decade has seen many news stories covering the legal battle over physician-assisted suicide. In this article, I am arguing in favor of legalizing physician-assisted suicide. The reasons that I support the move towards legalization are: 1. respect for one's personal decisions, 2. individual liberty, 3. compassion for severely ill patients and their families.

In the United States, both liberty and freedom are thought to be the centerpiece to our constitution and our country as a whole. Decisions made about the time and circumstances of your death are very personal. No one should be allowed to take those away from you (i.e. - murder is illegal in this country) anyone who is capable should be able to make that decision for themselves. The government should respect a person's decision to end their own life.

Making physician-assisted suicide completely illegal harshly limits a person's individual liberty. The U.S. government strongly supports our right

to life. What about our right to die with dignity and respect? Many terminal illnesses cause extremely painful and debilitating deaths. As a person's life is diminished by illness, the government's interest on preserving that life should decrease (meaning that there should be more room for them to make their own decision when it comes to their death). Simply put, the government should allow terminally ill patients to make the decision in these cases.

Finally, I argue for compassion. Most people who have sought physician-assisted suicide have been terminally ill patients in extreme pain or patients with diseases that cruelly altered their physical and mental capacities. Ask yourself: is it really fair to expect someone to live the last months of their lives miserably in extreme pain or in a deteriorating condition? What would you do if it was you, or a parent?

If the government legalizes physician-assisted suicide they will be able to strictly monitor and regulate a person's ability to use this. They will be giving those terminally ill patients the right to die with dignity and respect. As for the religious issue, that suicide is immoral, that is a personal issue. While the U.S. Government should and does strongly protect the right to religion, it doesn't have the right to force the religious views of some, on all.



Similarities in the Presidential Race David Wilson

During a month-long service project several years ago, my job was to teach, look after, and more or less act as a human jungle gym at Alpha Montessori School; one of the most rewarding experiences of my life no doubt. The connection is this, among those children, ages one to six, there was more decency and admirable qualities displayed, than has been in any political arena of late.

It seems, all of those running for President can agree on only one societal element and that is problems. The candidates can also agree on maliciously attacking one another's character, while at the same time stating they will be respectful and not run a dirty campaign.

Perusing some of Barack Obama's plans on education I was appalled to find out that he didn't like the way No

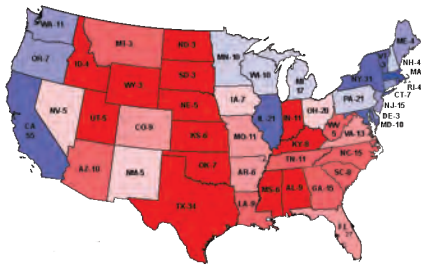
Child Left Behind has evolved, and expects to implement strategy to correct it, should he be made President. Not appalling you say. Oh, but it is, because on Republican rival Mitt Romney's views concerning education, he too finds fault in NCLB. Even more horrifying was the fact that John McCain, John Edwards, Hilary Clinton, and the majority of the other candidates all felt that education and specifically, NCLB, was a problem that should be resolved.

With the exception of long shot nut job Ron Paul (who wants to and I quote, "I want to abolish the unconstitutional, wasteful department of education and return its functions to the states. By removing the federal subsidies that inflate costs, schools can be funded by local taxes, and parents and teachers can directly decide how best to allocate the resources.") all of the

individuals running for president had similar plans to revive this flawed, but not broken education system.

Ignoring the partisan lingo, all of these men and women have good intentions for the United States of America, and if they took the time to stop the adult-like bickering, these civil servants would find more similarities than differences. When you get the chance bring up the Campaign websites for all of the candidates, go issue by issue, and almost to a tee we find the same issues and similar plans to fix, alleviate, rectify, revive, or simply correct the problems facing the nation. The greatest disparities lie only in healthcare and the Iraq war, and that is definitively partisan.

Perhaps the candidates should simply take a lesson from children, as even a two-year-old boy, who hates girls more than any Republican dislikes Democrats or vice versa, will share the Legos with one if it means the whole class gets cookies at snack time.



Avila Stadium

SpencerDavis

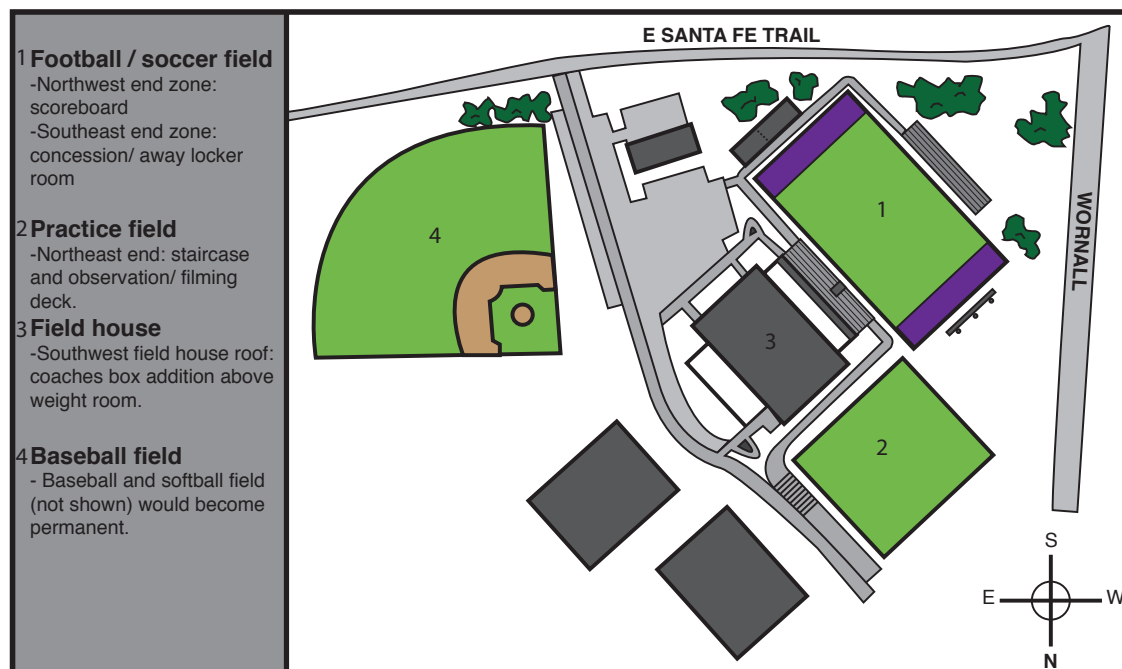
Two torn shoulders, six broken fingers, two slipped disks, one torn knee, uncountable twisted ankles, and eleven concussions. These are injuries that were sustained by the remaining five senior football players coming back next year for their fifth and final year for Avila University. For the past four years these athletes have put in everything for the name on the front of their jersey instead of the name on the back. And for what, a good education that quite possibly they could have gotten anywhere? It doesn't seem quite fair since these injuries will be physically painful for a lifetime for a university that seems to care very little about them. Ever since Avila implemented a football program, they promised recruits a stadium to be built on campus by the time they were seniors. A decade into the program and yet still no stadium. It's about time Avila kept true to the promise and give back to the athletes who put in more than just long nights of studying. By adding a stadium on campus, so many problems in the Athletic Department would be solved. The football program will be better than 5-27 in the past three seasons. Adding a stadium will not only make the current players actually feel like they are playing college football, instead of having to go to a HIGH SCHOOL ten miles down the road to play their home games, but it will allow better recruits who are on the bubble of coming to Avila or not, over the hump and help this program win. Avila will have more of a foundation in the community. 90% of Kansas City doesn't even know that Avila has a football team. By adding a stadium people driving down Wornall or living in the area to see that Avila does have football. It will also let the football team be more personal with the community when they do their annual community service, Spring Clean-Up. The community is the basis of our mission statement and yet we have no community support at any of our athletic events. A stadium will be a great asset for ALL of the

outdoor sports at Avila. Not only would it directly impact the football team, but a stadium would double for a soccer stadium as well. Field turf would allow the stadium to be used for both games as well as practices. Since it is field turf, no upkeep is necessary and costs of mowing, fertilizing, watering, grooming, and painting the field is obsolete. With soccer being able to play on the field turf as well, it opens the baseball and softball fields for only baseball and softball. Currently they share a field with soccer that seems to be completely

a stadium would fix all of these problems. Another reason to build a stadium is school spirit. Avila has very little if any. It would give the students a sense of pride. "No one comes into our house and beats us" kind of pride. That's hard to have when "your house" is a high school stadium that the home football team takes yellow school buses to and from. It would make attendance higher because students could easily walk down to the stadium that normally couldn't go to a game before because of transportation. It would also increase

attendance because football and soccer couldn't play at the same time. It would create the soccer team and fans a chance to come and support the football team and vice versa. All of these reasons make it seem like a win for Avila to have a stadium to be put here on campus, but administrators say it will cost too much. The one thing I have learned at Avila is "it takes money to make money." Avila needs to take out a loan or do whatever possible to fund this project. Overtime it will pay for itself and then some. Avila teaches students to take those risks in the real world, so why doesn't Avila lead by example. If

someone will donate \$500,000 to put a new front entrance way into the least used building on campus, enough people and Avila's credit with the bank should be able to put this project into action. Money should not be the issue that is standing in the way, especially with so many good things will happen in effect of a stadium. It just seems so right for Avila to have a stadium built on campus, hopefully this article will put the thought a little deeper into whoever's mind it is that has the possibilities of making it happen. If you would like to comment on this topic or add other reasons and perks to the idea of a stadium being built on campus, please do so at www.thetalon-online.com and click on this article. The more it is talked about the more likely it is to happen!



in the way of each other. As a spectator or a fan watching an Avila baseball or softball game you wouldn't understand the problems of sharing an outfield with the soccer team. From an administrative perspective, it looks like the perfect answer to save some space and combine the three into one. However the players that get paid (scholarship) for their performance on those fields say differently. "It's really frustrating trying to do anything in the outfield because of how beat up the ground is. A ball that normally rolls straight on a normal field will have the craziest bounces in the world. Even running to track down a fly ball, it's hard not to twist an ankle from the divots from a soccer game" said junior outfielder Colby Ross. Brian Berger, a senior soccer player added, "Our playing field has giant holes in the ground from where the baseball fence comes in and out of and many players get injured or lose control of the ball when going over them." Again

Missouri Roads Suck



RED RANT:
Emily Hoskins

David Beckham, a perfect ten. Chipotle, a perfect ten. KU basketball, a perfect ten. Missouri roads, negative fifty million. Let me walk you through a typical day of driving on the oh so great show-me-state roads of Missouri. You're at a stop light, it turns green. You excel to a speed of approximately 35 mph to get to your destination in a timely fashion. After traveling along for a few minutes, suddenly and without warning the entire left side of your car crashes to the bottom of what appears to be the biggest pothole you have ever experienced. Good bye alignment, hello flat tire, good afternoon swerving into the other lane, nice to meet you car wreck. So, was the city planning on telling its residents that when purchasing their next automobile they should consider something along the lines of a chitty chitty bang bang? Only so that they are able to jump or fly over the never ending supply of potholes? And if there's not a pothole ever fifty feet there are one of those humongous



steel plate things that do nothing but cover it up. So instead of dropping to your car's death, you are intentionally running over a harmful steal object that could potentially damage your fine automobile in more ways than one. I mean, I could get pulled over under

a small percentage of them, the process takes FOREVER. A prime example: One can experience firsthand the attempted repairs on Wornall Road near 435 Hwy. An estimated time of when construction began is approximately in the middle of December, which proves to be about two months ago. Does it really take two or more months to fix a hole in the road? I don't know, but I sure hope not. Oh, and those who think that I am just simply complaining about the roads with no real proof of how bad they are, hear this. Gary Hull, a man who has been a trucker with 20 years of experience says that "our roads are in pretty bad shape. They really are. Missouri has got the second or third worst roads in the nation right now". So as for Missouri roads, somebody, anybody needs to take action. Our roads affect our way of life. Yes, our lives can be better. So next time your out on a drive, take a peak at the roads and ask yourself, "Could they be better?"

Writers Strike... BLAH, BLAH!

Kayle Walker

There has always been one sitcom show that I enjoyed watching on TV. Whether it was Saved by the Bell way back in the day or the ever-so popular Grey's Anatomy today, I typically find time to watch my show. Since we now have the ability to watch TV shows on the Internet, I have started watching a few shows. A few of my favorites are Grey's Anatomy, Brothers & Sisters, Nip Tuck, and most recently Lost.

I choose to watch these shows on the Internet because I can watch them at my own convenience. The only problem is the writers strike is holding up production of my favorite shows.

It's so bad that I don't even care to watch them anymore. For instance Grey's Anatomy and Brothers & Sisters have a new episode maybe once a month and that's only if viewers are lucky!

The lack of shows on TV actually encouraged me to start watching Lost on abc.com. Three complete seasons online in HD streaming. I can watch them when I want or where I want and there are quite a few episodes to keep me busy, not to mention a brand new

season that aired two weeks ago. Can it get any better?

Personally, I'd rather not watch all the reality junk on TV. I will admit I do like a few shows, Rock of Love is one of my favorites, but they seem to be all the same thing. Dating shows with trashy men or women, "Real World" challenges and shows featuring good-looking people—like America's Top Model, which replays 24/7 on MTV and VH1.

Oh and who could forget the junk shows MTV producers, such as Next, Date My Mom, Exposed, etc. Can anyone actually admit they like these shows? I think the most entertainment I got from one was when an ex-Avila student was on MTV's exposed—pretty comical.

Honestly I don't even care what's going on with the writers strike, I just want my shows back! It's pretty pointless even turning the TV on anymore, but then again who really has time for TV anyways?



They Tried to Make Me Go to Rehab

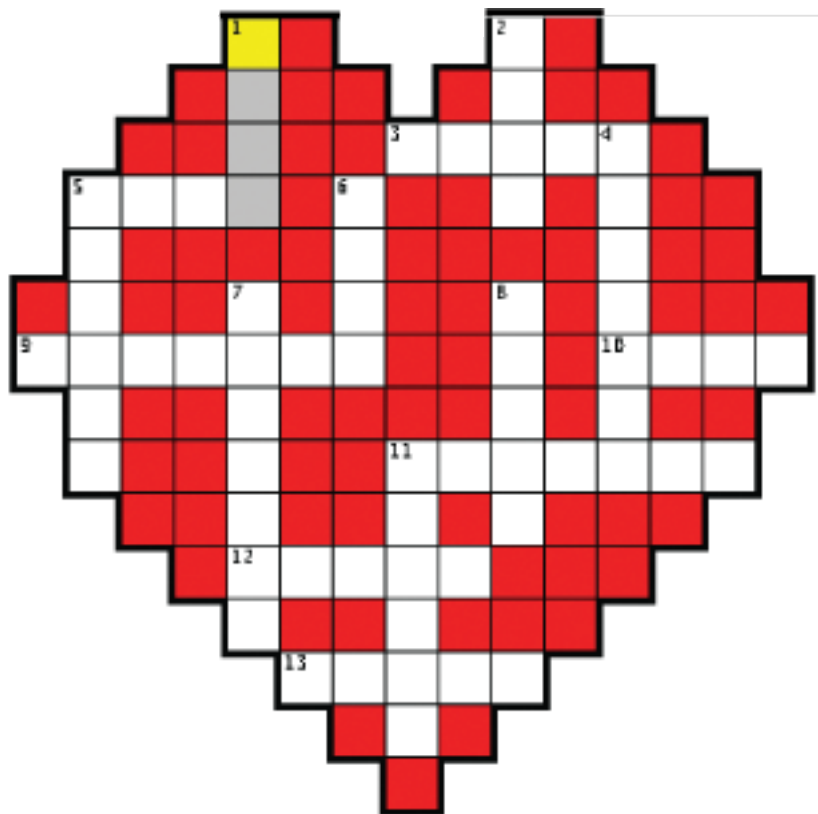
Jacqueline Sharp

When our parents were our age celebrities like Audrey Hepburn and Sophia Loren were put on pedestals and looked at as icons by young people. They were an inspiration and someone to aspire to be. Now, our "heroes" are checking into rehab daily, having children out of wedlock and their lives taped for the public to view and judge openly. Celebrities in our parent's days were real people who acted or sang. They were not bombarded by the media in attempts to make a story even if there was not one to make. Now, the definition of a celebrity is a person with money or whoever did the most shocking thing to make it on the cover of a magazine. Professional sports players and celebutantes like Paris Hilton, Nicole Richie, and Kim Kardashian are being idolized for their antics rather than talents. This is teaching society that it is okay to stay out until the early hours of the morning partying and if you have to go to rehab it is just a



well-deserved vacation. There are really two problems with current celebrities. The first being that society is so hungry for the next to fall that the media is constantly there to catch it. The second is that celebrities used to act like they were being watched, even though they might not have been, because they were acting proper. Now it seems that they are more performing for paparazzi rather than just living a normal life.

CROSS WORD



Across

- 3 You're _____ on earth. (5)
- 5 Delicate material. (4)
- 9 _____ and bows. (7)
- 10 Ribbons and _____. (4)
- 11 Send some and get a hug. (7)
- 12 That little guy with the arrows. (5)
- 13 Hearth-shaped or chocolate. (5)

Down

- 1 It makes the world go around. (4)
- 2 I need some warm _____. (4)
- 4 Cuddly and _____. (7)
- 5 _____ and caring. (6)
- 6 Send some and get a hug. (7)
- 7 That little guy with the arrows. (5)
- 8 Hearth-shaped or chocolate. (5)
- 11 You're my best _____. (6)

WORD SEARCH

A	B	C	D	R	O	S	E	S	E
F	V	A	L	E	N	T	I	N	E
C	U	P	I	D	G	H	I	J	K
A	R	R	O	W	S	L	O	V	E
N	L	M	N	H	E	A	R	T	O
D	O	V	E	S	P	C	Q	R	S
Y	T	P	I	N	K	E	U	V	X

Find and circle the following words:

arrows	candy	cupid
doves	heart	lace
love	pink	red
roses	valentine	



Find the 15 differences between the photos and win a PRIZE From the Prize Closet!
email your answers to crazyjd@gmail.com



About the Photo: Valentine's Day Theme Illustration Layout by Alison Fieber